

REMARKS

This paper is prepared in response to the Final Office action mailed 30 June 2008 (Paper No. 20080624).

Status of the Claims

Claims 21 through 60 are pending in the application. Claims 1 through 20 were previously canceled. No amendments are made to the claims.

Listing of the Claims

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.121(c), this listing of the claims, including the text of the claims, will serve to replace all prior versions of the claims, in the application. No new amendments are made to the claims.

Amendment of the Claims

No claims are amended by this Paper.

Examiner Interview

The Applicant's representative wishes to thank the Examiner for his time, diligence and careful consideration supplied during the in person interview conducted on September 17, 2008. The Applicant is grateful for the Examiner's reconsideration of the Applicant's

arguments. In accordance with the general consensus reached during the aforementioned interview and recorded in the Interview Summary dated September 17, 2008, this Request for Reconsideration is hereby submitted.

Claim Rejections

- I. Rejection of Claims 21-23, 25, 26, 30-34, 36, 37, 41-44, 46, 47, 51-52, 54, 55, 57, 58 and 60 under 35 U.S. C. §102(e) are being anticipated by Chhabra, U.S. Patent No. 5,831,791, and Claims 52-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Crane *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,721,650.**

The present invention is a negative pressure air bearing slider (ABS) suitable for use in a disk drive or other similar device. This ABS includes a first and second lead ABS platforms (110a and 110b) provided at a lead surface portion of slider body (100). A ramp portion (120) extends from a lead edge (121) of the slider body (100) to the ABS platforms (110a and 110b). Trailing ABSs (110c and 110d) are provided at a rear surface portion of the slider body (100) adjacent to a rear edge (123). A cross rail (130 and/or 131) is provided in order to form a negative pressure cavity (150). A pair of wide passages (135a and 135b) are disposed between the lead ABS platforms (110a and 110b) and cross rail (130 and/or 131). These pair of wide passages (135a and 135b) form an air flow channel which enhances the stability of the slider (100), particularly with regards to the skew angle of air flowing passed the slider body (100).

Chhabra teaches a negative pressure air bearing slider (NPAB). As shown in FIGS. 3a, 3b and 10b, NPAB slider (190) has a leading edge (200), a trailing edge (201), and first and second side edges (202 and 203). Slider (190) has first and second raised side rails (204 and 205) positioned along first and second side edges (202 and 203), respectively. First and second raised side rails (204 and 205) have outer rail edges (194 and 195), respectively. Further, first and second raised side rails (204 and 205) have leading edge tapers (226 and 227). First and second raised side rails (204 and 205) along with leading edge tapers (226 and 227) provide for the lifting of the NPAB and maintaining it above the disk surface. As shown in the Figures of Chhabra, first raised side rail (204) along with leading edge taper (226) form a single contiguous structure. Further, second raised side rail (205) along with leading edge taper (227) form a single contiguous structure.

However, the present invention differs from Chhabra, as shown in Figures 4-12 of the present application, since first and second lead ABS platforms (110a and 110b) and trailing ABS platforms (110c and 110d) do not form a single contiguous structure due to the presence of the pair of wide passages (135a and 135b). This patentable distinguishing feature is recited all the independent claims. Therefore, independent claims 21, 31, 42, 52, 55 and 58 patentably distinguish over the prior art of record by reciting, as exemplified by claim 21,

“A negative pressure air bearing slider having a negative pressure cavity, comprising: a body with a principal surface disposed to confront a recording surface of a recording medium, said principal surface having a lead portion and a rear portion, said lead portion being spaced upstream from said rear portion relative to a rotational direction of any recording medium confronted by said slider, said lead portion having a front edge, said rear portion having a rear edge, said front edge and said rear edge together

defining boundaries of said principal surface transverse to said front edge and said rear edge in a longitudinal direction of said slider body; and a U-shaped air bearing platform spaced-apart from said front edge, said U-shaped air bearing platform circumscribing a majority of said principal surface while defining a negative pressure cavity on said principal surface, said U-shaped air bearing platform comprising not more than two separate air bearing platforms each extending rearwardly toward said rear portion of said principal surface and respectively terminating at a first rear termination and a second rear termination to form trailing terminal ends of said negative pressure cavity spaced-apart from said rear portion, at least one of said not more than two separate air bearing platforms including a sidewall contiguous with one of said boundaries; at least one of said first rear termination and said second rear termination not coinciding with said rear edge, and being disposed upstream of said rear edge relative to said rotational direction of said recording medium.” (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, in accordance with the Interview Summary sheet summarizing the interview that took place on September 17, 2008, favorable consideration of the claims and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21-23, 25, 26, 30-34, 36, 37, 41-44, 46, 47, 51-52, 54, 55, 57, 58 and 60 under 35 U.S. C. §102(e) are being anticipated by Chhabra, U.S. Patent No. 5,831,791, is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 52-60 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) are being anticipated by Crane et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,721,650

Crane et al. teaches a disc head slider. As shown in Figure 3a, slider (70) includes leading edge (72), trailing edge (74), inside edge (76), outside edge (78), and center line (80). Slider (70) further includes side rails (82 and 84), center island (86) and cross rail (88). Cross rail (88) extends between and is coplanar with side rails (82 and 84). Side rails (82 and 84) are positioned along inside and outside edges (76 and 78), respectively, and form air bearing

surfaces (90 and 92), respectively. Slider 70 further includes subambient pressure cavity (100), lapped leading taper (102) and notch (104). Leading taper (102) extends from leading edge (72) to an intersection (106) with air bearing surfaces (90 and 92).

As shown in Figures 3a and 10a of Crane et al., side rails (82 and 84) and lapped leading taper (102) form a single contiguous structure. However, the present invention differs from Crane et al., as shown in Figures 4-12 of the present application, since first and second lead ABS platforms (110a and 110b) and trailing ABS platforms (110c and 110d) do not form a single contiguous structure due to the presence of the pair of wide passages (135a and 135b).

Therefore, independent claims 52, 55 and 58 patentably distinguish over the prior art of record by reciting, as exemplified by claim 52,

“A negative pressure air bearing slider having a negative pressure cavity, comprising: a body with a principal surface disposed to confront a recording surface of a recording medium, said principal surface having a lead portion separated from a rear portion by a central portion, said lead portion and said central portion being spaced upstream from said rear portion relative to a rotational direction of any recording medium confronted by said slider, said lead portion having a front edge, said rear portion having a rear edge, said front edge and said rear edge connected together by longitudinal sides of said principal surface in a longitudinal direction of said slider body; and a plurality of arcuately shaped arms each having distal ends extending from opposite ones of said longitudinal sides curving inwardly across said central portion of said principal surface with spaced-apart proximal facing ends of said arms together forming a U-shaped air bearing platform located between said longitudinal sides to separate a negative pressure cavity defined by said arms on said principal surface from said longitudinal sides, at least one of said arms extending from an edge of one of said longitudinal sides; at least one of said arms having a proximal end spaced-apart from said front edge; a distal end of at least one of said arms forming a terminal end wholly within said central portion and spaced-apart from said rear portion.” (Emphasis Added)

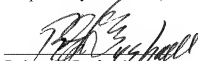
Therefore, in accordance with the Interview Summary sheet summarizing the interview that took place on September 17, 2008, favorable consideration of the claims and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 52-60 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) are being anticipated by Crane *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,721,650, is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are patentable over the cited references, taken either alone or combination and accordingly should now be in a conditions suitable for allowance.

No fee is incurred by this paper.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert E. Bushnell,
Attorney for the Applicants
Registration No.: 27,774

1522 "K" Street N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 408-9040

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